

## **2017 ECAC Member Interview Summary**

### **1. What are the biggest accomplishments of the ECAC?**

- Made concrete recommendations to the governor, home visiting recommendation was included in the budget
- Group and the steering committee functioning more effectively, used a group process, increased engagement at all levels
- Good discussions with great speakers
- Great to have Secretary Anderson and Superintendent Evers working together as co-chairs

### **2. What are the biggest challenges of the ECAC?**

- How to tackle issues from a more complex/cross disciplinary approach. We made program recommendations, but we could consider something more cross systems.
- How to keep energy and momentum
- Would like to see more leadership from non-state staff (there was a great appreciation of the role state staff play, looking forward there is interest in having a transition to more leadership from outside of the state).
- Can the group/should the group tackle a recommendation that address the cost of child care and/or wages?
- We've made progress in developing awareness of the importance of early childhood, but we have room to grow. As we grow we have to be mindful of how we support parents and not shame them.
- Difficult to really digest and dig into issues when you only meet quarterly
- Inconsistent participation
- Unclear/lacking connection to the governor
- Would like more communication between meetings; monthly update, agendas sent earlier, more pre-reading.
- Would like broaden the participation and input from non-government and non-profit folks, are there ways to get more perspectives to the table? Does some of this work happen in work groups?
- Having a process is good, but we should also be able to be responsive and pragmatic with guidance from the governor, the co-chairs, and current trends. If we had more insights into those areas perhaps we could speed up the process in some cases.

### **3. What are the biggest opportunities for the ECAC?**

- Continue to strengthen the process and serve as a strong voice for early childhood
- Address the issues of equity and quality as they relate to child outcomes, including suspension and expulsion. These are complex issues that involve several systems.
- Leverage the connections in the room, especially the business community.
- Do more outreach work
- Address the problem of child care; cost, wages, quality.
- The process and recommendations are great, but the group can do more now that the process is solidified.
- Develop strategies and processes to be responsive to emerging interests; opioids, mental health, etc.
- Consider how to rotate membership and bring new voices to the table, especially from outside of government/nonprofit

### **4. What new strategies/approaches would you like the ECAC to utilize?**

- The group has made some efforts to leverage members' spheres of influence, but there is room to group.
- How can we bring more voices to the table; especially parents, and stakeholders from different backgrounds?
- Create space for more interaction between members.
- More outreach using a variety of strategies.
- Approach problems with systems thinking; leverage other work/initiatives
- Would like the group to be more responsive to emerging issues and trends
- More communication and information between meetings; especially information on best practices and research.

## 5. Other feedback?

- Really like the cycle that we are using, now that it is more formalized, can non-state members now take more ownership of the process?
- Rotate leadership on the steering committee, engage members for new roles and work groups
- Orientation for new members
- More voices at the table, especially parents, other groups that are working on related topics.
- Have a conference call option
- Leverage member connections, sphere of influence
- More communication between meetings
- Look for other strategies to support local work
- More outreach
- Keep reminding folks of the process and the executive order
- Great to have leadership involved in the facilitation and shaping the process